



## LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE ON  
20<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE VILLAGE WEB SITE  
<https://littlegaddesdenpc.org.uk>

The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Hyde, Lawson, Kelly, Magson, Pritchard, Saner, Townsend. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and District Councillor Terry Douris, (from 9.00pm) and nine members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** None

### 1. FORMALITIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how the meeting would be run with open microphone for Councillors and muted microphones for members of the public until the public open question session.

The Clerk noted the attendance and has recorded it in the register.

There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and were signed at the end of the meeting.

### 2. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

#### (a) Community Support Activity in relation to Coronavirus

Sarah Gall, who together with fellow First Responder Wendy Molloy, formed a Volunteer Group to support villagers during this difficult lockdown period, advised that the groups that had been formed to support each area within the village were working well. Everyone was very appreciative of the actions being taken.

#### (b) Update on the Shop and Post Office

Cllr. Lawson advised that she had spoken to the shop and confirmed that the new arrangements were working well. People were encouraged to use and support the shop where they can.

#### (c) Report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Although Lee Clements had been invited and a crime report requested neither were available for the meeting.

#### (d) To discuss the land for sale in Church Road.

The Chairman advised that although some plots were being recorded on the auction web site as sold, it was difficult to be sure of the position until purchases were formally registered at the Land Registry.

The application for the development of a house on Plot 7 (opposite Field House, Church Road) that had been submitted to Dacorum Borough Council received 78 objections from residents and also

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....

objections from bodies such as the Chiltern Society, Historic England and of course the Parish Council. No doubt as a result of the wave of objections the applicant has withdrawn the application.

**(e.) Cutting arrangements for the Green**

Cllr Hyde confirmed the arrangements, supported by the ‘Bee friendly’ Environmental Dept of Hertfordshire CC were as follows:-

Cut the roadside verge 2 metres in width and the path side verge 2 metres in width and either side of the driveways 2 metres in width, every month throughout the season.

Three small areas will be cut every month throughout the season also:-

1. Marian Alford Memorial area,
2. War Memorial/Remembrance Day area and
3. From Hudnall Lane to the first Drive at the Manor House

A hay crop will be cut across all of the Green mid to end of June by a contractor.

From July onwards all sections (except see below) should be cut every month until close of the year, probably October. A radius of 4 metres will be left around the base of the three Lime Trees.

The areas either side of the Adelaide Memorial (Manor House Drive to Red House Drive) will be left from July until September, and in September we plan to remove the cut grass.

**(f) Greener Gaddesden Sustainability Plan**

Cllr. Hyde advised as follows:-

Meeting held 25 Feb – looked at Wigginton Action Plan, cherry picked items that would be appropriate to LG:

Wildlife – tree planting to be encouraged – NT are asking for help in tree planting where they are taking out conifer plantations – NT will let us know when.

Encourage wildflower verges and adopt HCC Environmental Dept recommendations for mowing regime of village Green.

Workshops – knowledge sharing mostly to be taken on by VPA

Transport – looking into sharing schemes; electric charging points within the village.

Energy – Green energy supply to homes – advice to be researched and disseminated.

Food Production/Waste – VPA & Wi looking into this.

Recycling and Waste management – help village to do their best!

We were due to have another meeting on Tue 14 April at 7.30 – this is now in doubt, but we will persist with planning.

**(g) To receive an update on the Conservation Area Character Appraisal (CACA)**

Cllr. Hyde confirmed that the review with Dacorum Borough Council had been positive and they would move onto further editing including adding photographs. There was some discussion about whether photos from a drone would be taken, it was agreed that if so required then residents would need to be contacted.

**(h) To seek approval for the revised Equality Policy**

The Clerk confirmed that the policy wording had been substantially updated by Cllr. Pritchard and that an appendix had been added that will enable the Council to measure its performance under the policy going forward. Cllr. Magson asked that the policy wording be properly linked to the appendix and Cllr. Pritchard undertook to complete this. It was agreed that Councillors would be given time to review the document which would be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....

**(i) To note the re-issue of the Financial Regulations**

The Clerk advised that the National Association of Local Councils had updated its standard template for the Financial Regulations and so he had used that template with minor amendments to form the new document. Councillors approved and adopted the revised document.

**(j) To provide feedback on the South West Herts Strategic Plan briefing**

The Clerk confirmed that he together with Cllr Saner and Cllr Townsend had attended the briefing by Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) and understood that as part of the longer term planning DBC was working with a number of neighbouring Councils to ensure a joined up approach to infrastructure planning.

Cllr. Saner confirmed that the period covered was up to the year 2050. Borough Cllr. Terry Douris confirmed that the neighbouring authorities participating were Hertsmere, Three Rivers, St. Albans, Watford and of course Herts CC.

**(k) Cricket covers**

Cllr. Kelly explained that the cricket covers that were stored on the far side of the Church Road playing field after the cricket season had finished were causing the grass beneath them to die. He suggested though that rather than moving them to allow the grass to recover and potentially damaging other areas of the playing field that perhaps it was better just to leave them at one point and accept that the grass in that area will not recover. Councillors were asked to consider the proposal and agree the best approach at the next meeting.

**(l) Drivesafe March results.**

DRIVESAFE 10 March 2020. 1pm – 3 pm.  
Total vehicles travelling into village 87.  
Exceeding 34 mph. - 26 vehicles = 29%  
Exceeding 40 mph. - 3  
Exceeding 45 mph. - 2

**(m) To report on the parking arrangements for the footballers at the Bowls Club car park**

Cllr Lawson advised that she had spoken to the Football club and they were monitoring their own use and that of others at the Bowls Club car park.

**(n) To thank the Hudnall Lane team of litter pickers**

The Clerk thanked the band of volunteers who were helping to keep the village looking nice by undertaking a litter pick once during their allocated month on the hill running down from Hudnall crossroads to Fourways Garage.

**3. OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Cllr. Kelly asked if anyone wished to raise any matters. Virginia Westmacott advised that she had seen a man on Hudnall Common with a bow and arrow and was concerned about possible hunting and safety of the public. It was agreed that this should be reported to PCSO Lee Clements.

Reverend John Russell explained about the work of the Little Gaddesden Charities. He said that we don't know how long the lock down will last and appreciated that people's worries won't necessarily go away when the lockdown is over. For many people the impact of COVID 19 will be long lasting. With that in mind he reminded us of the excellent work of The Little Gaddesden Charities: The aim of the charity is to aid anyone in need, hardship or distress within the Parish of Little Gaddesden, by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....

calculated to redress the need of such people. He assured us that the charity maintains strict confidentiality in all that they do. He said please contact: Reverend John Russell on 01442 214898 to seek support from this charity, and if you see others who might benefit please do encourage them to call. It was agreed that this information would be put on the main noticeboard and also on the web site.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION

##### (i) Correspondence not already covered above and that requires action by the Council

The Clerk advised he had received a complaint about the use by cyclists and horse riders of the coach path that runs parallel to Nettleden Road but a few metres back and starts near Home Farm and runs across the stone bridge and out onto the Golden Valley. It was agreed that Councillor Townsend would alert the National Trust to this misuse.

##### (ii) Finance

The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month and the review of the year 2019-20 as a whole. Borough Cllr. Douris asked for an amendment to the description of the Locality Grant, the Clerk made that change during the meeting.

The Clerk shared on screen the budget document for 2020-21 and identified the major spend blocks for the coming year. He explained that the Council had received c. £12,000 additional funds as a result of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) related to the Oak House. Cllr. Magson asked whether there were rules regarding the use of this money and the Clerk confirmed it had to be spent on approved infrastructure projects.

##### (iii) Health and Safety

The Clerk confirmed that the Safety inspections of the play areas had taken place on 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April. The Clerk advised that notices had been posted on stakes adjacent to the play equipment reminding people not to use the equipment during the lockdown period. Twice these notices had been vandalised and at the moment notices had been wired to the fence and the entrance gate.

##### Finance Schedule

a. The Council approved the following payments:-

Clerk & Village Hall Manager – Salary & PAYE for **March & April**

SRT Trading Limited – £220 ex vat– Warden Services (**for both March & April invoices**)

MWAgri – £692 ex vat (**for both March & April invoices**)

Petty Cash payment to Clerk for March £155.52 ex vat Phone rental and calls, Poo bags and printing ink and for April Phone rental/calls and ink and laminating paper £52.04 ex vat

Dacorum Borough Council Election fee recharge £1,190.27 no vat

HAPTC Annual subscription and affiliation fee to NALC £644.67

b. Cheques/payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary

Scout Hut Rent - £5

Dacorum payment of grants and precept- £39,149.80 & CIL £11,968.55

#### PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2020)

(Red text show changes since previous meeting)

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....

**SILVER BIRCHES, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. RETENTION OF CHANGE OF USE OF A BARN INTO A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, ROOF EXTENSION WITH DORMER EXTENSION. MODIFICATIONS TO OPENINGS. 4/02148/19/RET Objection by LGPC (please see wording below).**

This is an application for retrospective permission for the conversion of a barn/shed into a three bedroomed dwelling. The work was started without planning permission in July 2017 and completed in January 2019.

Dacorum's core strategy for its countryside area is that there should be a limited number of new dwellings in identified small villages in Dacorum between 2006 and 2026. Little Gaddesden is not one of the identified villages. It follows therefore that permission for this new dwelling is unlikely to have been granted if permission had been applied for prior to the commencement of works and planning permission should not be granted retrospectively. Little Gaddesden Parish Council therefore objects to this application.

**Awaiting DBC decision**

The Bothy, Nettleden Road. The demolition of a garage block and conservatory and the extension and re-cladding of the existing dwelling. 19/03008/FHA

**'Little Gaddesden Parish Council (LGPC) at its meeting of the 9th December 2019 made a decision that it should oppose the application. Following representations by the applicant and a discussion with planning officer the LGPC consultation response has been amended as follows:-**

We note that historically the Bothy has been in receipt of a planning permission based open a similar scheme to that being proposed. We understand that the Planning Authority would be minded to give approval to this application. In the light of the forgoing Little Gaddesden Parish Council wishes to withdraw its objection.

Little Gaddesden Parish Council in conjunction with Dacorum Borough Council is in the process of preparing its Conservation Area Character Appraisal and although the document is yet to be completed, the Parish Council will wish to reserve its position on the style of architecture considered to be appropriate for the Conservation Area and will not be looking at the Bothy as setting a precedent for future applications.

**Granted by DBC.**

House In The Woods Golf Club Road. Proposed side extension with rooms in the roof and single storey rear extension. 19/03148/FHA Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

Manor Orchard Nettleden Road. Single Storey Front Extension and Single Storey Pavilion Garden Room Annexe to the Rear Garden Enclosure. 20/00111/FHA LGPC Objection to the additional annex/garden room but no objection to the extension of the dwelling.

Following a further review by the Planning Working Group and a meeting with the applicant and a discussion with the between the Clerk and the Planning Officer James Gardner, the Planning Working Group now wish to amend the Parish Council's response to read as follows:-

LGPC would be happy to withdraw the objection to the application completely, provided that there is a condition imposed that the annex/garden room building has to be used as ancillary to the main dwelling and not as a separate dwelling. **Awaiting decision by DBC**

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....

Birchwood End, Hudnall Common. Enclosure of existing terrace with glazing and small side canopy, dormer roof extension to rear. 20/00120/FHA No objection from LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

3 Little Gaddesden House Nettleden Road. Loft conversion and associated internal and external alterations. 20/00190/FHA & 20/00191/LBC No objection from LGPC, **Granted by DBC.**

Plot 7, Land at Church Road. Construction of Detached Dwelling and Garage. 20/00176/FUL  
**LGPC objected to the application. Application was withdrawn**

Woodland at top Of Hudnall Lane / Nettleden Road. Fell Trees. 20/00297/TCA No objection from LGPC, **DBC decision – Raise no objection**

Mosshall Farm, Nettleden Road North. Construction of stables for personal use. 20/00453/FUL.  
**Under review by LGPC**

Badgers Wood, Beacon Road, Ringshall. Works to trees. 20/00580/TCA  
**Supported by LGPC. DBC decision - Raise no objection**

Farthings, Nettleden Road North. Works to trees. 20/00682/TPO.  
**Supported by LGPC, Granted by DBC**

### **Applications received since the last meeting.**

**After the public had had an opportunity to comment on the applications below, the Planning Working Group made their recommendations to the full Parish Council.**

**Birchwood, Golf Club Road.** Demolition of existing single storey extension and timber balcony to facilitate the construction of a replacement 2-storey extension and re-cladding of the external walls. Replacement of all windows and doors, construction of new rooflight, alterations to the existing driveway and new vehicular access. 20/00796/FHA **Objection by LGPC due to the gates, however, the application would be supported if the gates were omitted/re-designed. Detailed wording to be agreed.**

**Hudnall Field Centre, Hudnall Common – Temporary camping facilities – Local residents responded robustly to the original application, the latest revision was accepted with some suggested modifications. Granted by DBC**

### **Information to share / Items for the next meeting**

**Cllr Hyde asked whether the Village Hall Management Association will be ok financially with loss of bookings through the lockdown. David Brattle Chair of the VHMC. confirmed that having reviewed their finances thought they would be alright.**

**Borough Cllr Douris said that there was still ongoing correspondence between a resident and HCC so the Safe Route to school works could not yet be completed.**

**The meeting closed at 10.15pm. The next meeting is on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.**

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....